

# Notice of Allowability

## Application No.

10/813,418

## Examiner

Maikhanh Nguyen

## Applicant(s)

HOBBS, CRAIG A.

## Art Unit

2176

### - The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the RCE filed 03/19/2008 and the telephonic interview on 06/04/2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 11, 14, 15, 22, 24, 27-29, 32, and 33 (now renumbered as 1-10).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.  
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached  
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

/Doug Hutton/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 2100

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT & REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

**I. EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT:**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ryan T. Grace (Reg. No. 52, 956) on 06/04/2008.

**The application has been amended as follows:**

**In the Claims:**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:**

1.-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended): A method of formulaically specifying the redirection or modification of a formula in a spreadsheet application at formula set-time, comprising:

setting a spreadsheet formula to a first spreadsheet cell;

in response to setting the spreadsheet formula to the first spreadsheet cell, obtaining a formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell, wherein prior to obtaining the formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell, parsing the spreadsheet formula set to the first spreadsheet cell to determine any required evaluation or recalculation caused by the spreadsheet formula set to the first spreadsheet cell, wherein the spreadsheet formula set to the first spreadsheet cell comprises a value to be evaluated by the formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell;

identifying a cell reference to a second spreadsheet cell in at least one member of a group comprising: the spreadsheet formula set to the first spreadsheet cell and the spreadsheet formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell;

in response to setting the spreadsheet formula to the first spreadsheet cell, determining whether data associated with the first spreadsheet cell should be redirected to the second spreadsheet cell identified by the cell reference; and

redirecting data associated with the first spreadsheet cell to the second spreadsheet cell for entry into the second spreadsheet cell when data associated with the first spreadsheet cell is redirected to the second spreadsheet cell

identified by the cell reference, wherein redirecting data associated with the first spreadsheet cell to the second spreadsheet cell includes redirecting data associated with the first spreadsheet cell to the second spreadsheet cell for evaluation by a spreadsheet formula set to the second spreadsheet cell and redirecting data associated with the first spreadsheet cell to the second spreadsheet cell for modifying the spreadsheet formula set to the second spreadsheet cell; [I.]

determining whether the spreadsheet formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell requires evaluation in response to the spreadsheet formula set to the first spreadsheet cell when the data is evaluated by the spreadsheet formula set to the second spreadsheet cell;

evaluating the spreadsheet formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell in response to the spreadsheet formula set to the first spreadsheet cell when the data is evaluated by the spreadsheet formula set to the second spreadsheet cell; and

passing the evaluated result of evaluating the spreadsheet formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell for evaluation by the spreadsheet formula set to the second spreadsheet cell.

12.-13. (Canceled):

14. (previously presented): The method of Claim 11, further comprising determining the cell reference for the second spreadsheet cell from the spreadsheet formula set to the first spreadsheet cell.

15. (previously presented): The method of Claim 14, whereby if no cell reference for the second spreadsheet cell is determined from the spreadsheet formula set to the first spreadsheet cell, determining the cell reference for the second spreadsheet cell from the spreadsheet formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell.

16. - 21. (Cancelled):

22. (Currently amended): The method of Claim ~~20~~11, further comprising passing the evaluated result of evaluating the spreadsheet formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell for modifying a spreadsheet formula set to the second spreadsheet cell.

23. (Cancelled):

24. (Currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions for formulaically specifying the redirection or modification of a formula in a spreadsheet application at formula set-time, comprising:

setting a spreadsheet formula to a first spreadsheet cell;

in response to setting the spreadsheet formula to the first spreadsheet cell, obtaining a formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell, wherein prior to obtaining the formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell, parsing the spreadsheet formula set to the first spreadsheet cell to determine any required evaluation or recalculation caused by the spreadsheet formula set to the first spreadsheet cell, wherein the spreadsheet formula set to the first spreadsheet cell comprises a value to be evaluated by the formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell;

identifying a cell reference to a second spreadsheet cell in at least one member of a group comprising: the spreadsheet formula set to the first spreadsheet cell and the spreadsheet formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell;

in response to setting the spreadsheet formula to the first spreadsheet cell, determining whether data associated with the first spreadsheet cell should be redirected to the second spreadsheet cell identified by the cell reference; and

redirecting data associated with the first spreadsheet cell to the second spreadsheet cell for entry into the second spreadsheet cell when data associated with the first spreadsheet cell is redirected to the second spreadsheet cell identified by the cell reference, wherein redirecting data associated with the first spreadsheet cell to the second spreadsheet cell includes redirecting data associated with the first spreadsheet cell to the second spreadsheet cell for

evaluation by a spreadsheet formula set to the second spreadsheet cell and redirecting data associated with the first spreadsheet cell to the second spreadsheet cell for modifying the spreadsheet formula set to the second spreadsheet cell;[[.]]

determining whether the spreadsheet formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell requires evaluation in response to the spreadsheet formula set to the first spreadsheet cell when the data is evaluated by the spreadsheet formula set to the second spreadsheet cell;

evaluating the spreadsheet formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell in response to the spreadsheet formula set to the first spreadsheet cell when the data is evaluated by the spreadsheet formula set to the second spreadsheet cell; and

passing the evaluated result of evaluating the spreadsheet formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell for evaluation by the spreadsheet formula set to the second spreadsheet cell.

25. – 26. (Cancelled):

27. (previously presented): The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 24, further comprising determining the cell reference for the second spreadsheet cell from the spreadsheet formula set to the first spreadsheet cell.

28. (previously presented): The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 27, whereby if no cell reference for the second spreadsheet cell is determined from the spreadsheet formula set to the first spreadsheet cell, determining the cell reference for the second spreadsheet cell from the spreadsheet formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell.

29. (Currently amended): A system for formulaically specifying the redirection or modification of a formula in a spreadsheet application at formula set-time, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory having computer-executable instructions stored thereon,

wherein the computer-executable instructions include:

setting a spreadsheet formula to a first spreadsheet cell;

in response to setting the spreadsheet formula to the first spreadsheet cell, obtaining a formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell, wherein prior to obtaining the formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell, parsing the spreadsheet formula set to the first spreadsheet cell to determine any required evaluation or recalculation caused by the spreadsheet formula set to the first spreadsheet cell, wherein the spreadsheet formula set to the first spreadsheet cell comprises a value to be evaluated by the formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell;



identifying a cell reference to a second spreadsheet cell in at least one member of a group comprising: the spreadsheet formula set to the first spreadsheet cell and the spreadsheet formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell;

in response to setting the spreadsheet formula to the first spreadsheet cell, determining whether data associated with the first spreadsheet cell should be redirected to the second spreadsheet cell identified by the cell reference; and

redirecting data associated with the first spreadsheet cell to the second spreadsheet cell for entry into the second spreadsheet cell when data associated with the first spreadsheet cell is redirected to the second spreadsheet cell identified by the cell reference, wherein redirecting data associated with the first spreadsheet cell to the second spreadsheet cell includes redirecting data associated with the first spreadsheet cell to the second spreadsheet cell for evaluation by a spreadsheet formula set to the second spreadsheet cell and redirecting data associated with the first spreadsheet cell to the second spreadsheet cell for modifying the spreadsheet formula set to the second spreadsheet cell;

determining whether the spreadsheet formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell requires evaluation in response to the spreadsheet formula set to the first spreadsheet cell when the data is evaluated by the spreadsheet formula set to the second spreadsheet cell;

evaluating the spreadsheet formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell in response to the spreadsheet formula set to the first spreadsheet cell when the data is evaluated by the spreadsheet formula set to the second spreadsheet cell; and

passing the evaluated result of evaluating the spreadsheet formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell for evaluation by the spreadsheet formula set to the second spreadsheet cell.

30. – 31. (Cancelled)

32. (previously presented): The system of Claim 29, further comprising determining the cell reference for the second spreadsheet cell from the spreadsheet formula set to the first spreadsheet cell.

33. (previously presented): The system of Claim 32, whereby if no cell reference for the second spreadsheet cell is determined from the spreadsheet formula set to the first spreadsheet cell, determining the cell reference for the second spreadsheet cell from the spreadsheet formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell.

II. **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE:**

Claims 11, 14, 15, 22, 24, 27-29, 32, and 33 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not expressly teach or render obvious the invention as recited in independent claims 11, 24, and 29.

The features as recited in independent claims 11, 24, and 29 “*determining whether data associated with the first spreadsheet cell should be redirected to the second spreadsheet cell identified by the cell reference; redirecting data associated with the first spreadsheet cell to the second spreadsheet cell for entry into the second spreadsheet cell when data associated with the first spreadsheet cell is redirected to the second spreadsheet cell identified by the cell reference, redirecting data associated with the first spreadsheet cell to the second spreadsheet cell for modifying the spreadsheet formula set to the second spreadsheet cell; and passing the evaluated result of evaluating the spreadsheet formula previously set to the first spreadsheet cell for evaluation by the spreadsheet formula set to the second spreadsheet cell,*” when taken in the context of the claims as a whole, was not uncovered in the prior art teachings.

Dependent claims are allowed as they depend upon allowable independent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### III. **ADDITIONAL REFERENCE**

The Examiner as of general interest cites the following reference:

US 2004/0044954

### **Contact information**

- IV. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maikhanh Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4093. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:00am –

5:30 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached at (571) 272-4137.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Maikhanh Nguyen/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2176

*/Doug Hutton/*  
Doug Hutton  
Supervisory Primary Examiner  
Technology Center 2100